

AF FORM 112—PART I

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

COUNTRY GERMANY	REPORT NO. 52B-9655	(LEAVE BLANK) <i>141 810</i>
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT SEE CONTENTS BELOW	Interviewer SCHAEFFER, Victor (FW)	Editor MAXIMOV
AREA REPORTED ON VORKUTA, USSR	FROM (Agency) 7050 AISW (USAF)	
DATE OF REPORT 15 Apr 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Sep 45 - Jun 53	EVALUATION C - 3
PREPARED BY (Officer) SHIRLEY A. KOLPIN, Lt.Col. USAF	SOURCE 217692	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

I. TABLE OF CONTENTS:Report # 52B-9655-A Area of VORKUTA (6731 N, 6359 E) (2U) *A***II. DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE:**Civilian:

Education 8 years
 Trade of Profession..... Farmer and Truck driver
 Years practiced 5 years, 2 years resp.
 Present occupation..... unemployed

Military:

Years of Service.... 7 years
 Highest Rank..... Cpl
 Branch..... Antitank
 By whom captured.... Soviets

SOURCE HISTORY:

Dates:	Camp No:	City or Area:
Sep 45-Mar 47	OLP-3	n/VORKUTA
Mar 47-Aug 48	Invalid camp # 14	n/VORKUTA
Aug 48-Jun 53	OLP-9	n/VORKUTA

Place of work and duties:

Saw mill worker
 No work
 Helper in coal mine, and carpenter on housing in the city.

III. SOURCE RELIABILITY:

SOURCE was a simple minded, goodnatured individual. He was quite cooperative. His memory was good and his power of observation seemed to be fair. He took great care in making the sketch, doing it in a competent manner, giving the impression of having gained a good knowledge on the area. All SOURCE's observations were, however, of a superficial nature.

APPROVED:*D.M. Allison*

D.M. ALLISON
 Colonel, United States Air Force
 Commander

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INCL.

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Authority *MM 974352*
By *WV* NARA Date *9/4/01**A*

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I. PREAMBLE:

S was confined in forced labor camps near VORKUTA (6731 N, 6359 E) from Sep 45 to Jun 53. Sep 45 - Mar 47, he was inmate of camp "OLP" (Otdelnyy Lagpunkt) # 3, working in a small saw mill. Mar 47 - Aug 48 he was in a invalids camp, called "Sangorodok # 14". Aug 48 - Jun 53, he was inmate of camp "OLP-9". Apr - Sep 50 he worked as a carpenter on house constr. in the city, and the rest of this time as a helper in the coal mine # 8. S was always strictly guarded. His observations were made on the way between camps and places of work.

II. LIST OF INSTALLATIONS AND POINTS OF INTEREST.

Ref is made to Incl. 1, this Rpt. a Memory Sketch of the Area of VORKUTA, on which S identified the following points:

1. AIRFIELD. Observations made from RR-switch station (Pt. 3) during 5 months in summer 1950. Flat surface. Slightly metallized and rolled in its central part, and covered with grass at the rims. Surrounded by a low fence, consisting of 3-4 rows of barbed wire. S observed no runway, no hangars and no buildings on this A/F.

A. Aircraft dispersal point. Stationed here were 6-7 U-2 planes, two 2-engined transporter a/c of an unidentified type and at least 2 "Douglas" transporters. The U-2 were used for courier and patrol flights. The Douglas a/c was generally known to serve for local communication in the borders of the district, where as the unidentified transports kept up a daily connection with MOSKVA (5545 N, 3537 E).

2. MVD BARRACKS. 3-story, about 60x16m. Brick. Slightly gabled, corrugated eternit. Occupied by Convoy troops of the MVD, vaguely estimated at about 3 companies. Daily infantry training with light arms, including mortars. Part of these soldiers were employed on guarding forced labor camps. No names, no details.

3. RR-SWITCH STATION. In summer 1950, S daily travelled from camp (Pt. 43) to this station, leaving and taking the trains here. This station had 3 RR-tracks, serving for assembling coal trains. The cars of which these trains were assembled came from the surrounding coal mines, usually at a rate of 4-5 cars from each mine. The assembled trains had an average of about 50 sixty-ton cars. Each car was carefully searched before leaving this area, by means of long iron poles to prevent the escape of a convict who might be hiding below the coal. Chassis and axles were also closely checked. It was rumored that the coal of this area was shipped to LENINGRAD (5955 N/3015 E). S estimated about 5 trains leaving this station during the day hrs. Night traffic was unknown to him. Food products, clothes, constr. material and all items of general use were supplied to this city by train. However, there were no warehouses in the station area. Only cement and lime were stored here in small wooden sheds, and large quantities of brick were piled in the open. All other products were shipped by truck to stores in the city. There were no unloading facilities at this station.

4. RR-STATION for passengers. Old, single story wooden structure covered with tarpaper. Broken windows replaced by plywood. Ticket office and waiting rooms. Hardly any passengers. MVD control of documents of all passengers travelling south.

5. "OLD CITY". This section of the city consisted of 80-100 old single story wooden barracks, all 24x6m in size. The roofs were covered with so-called "Finskie struzhki", kind of arched slats, placed in 3 layers and known to last about 15 years. The street running south-west from the "Lenin Square" (Pt. 8) was lined with several large 3-story brick buildings. Here was also a 4-story, about 60m long univesal store.

6. MINING EQUIPMENT PLANT. "Gornyy Tsech". S was never inside. It consisted of a main building, 2 smaller work shops and a boiler house. Passing this compound

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On the street, S had seen the gable side of the main building, estimating it at about 20 m wide and 9 m high. It had brick walls and a monitor roof. Each of the smaller shops was about 10m wide and 5m high. Their gabled roofs were covered with tar paper. This plant was operated in 3 shifts. S had seen the workers coming in and out, estimating about 300 workers per shift. It was generally known that the production consisted of all kinds of repairs on mining machinery and narrow gauge cars. Details were not available.

7. THEATER. Constr. begun in 1950. S had seen the constr. of its concrete foundations, without being able to make an estimate in size. He was told by fellow prisoners of his camp that this Bldg. was completed late 1951, but had never seen it himself.

8. "STALIN SQUARE". About 60x60m. Stalin monument in the middle.

9. "NEW CITY". Construction was begun in 1950. The western part consisted in 1953 of about 60 3-story prefabricated wooden houses, about 30x16m. The roofs were covered with eternit. Each house had 2 entrances on each long side. It was general knowledge that these houses came from Finland. The eastern part of this city section was built up by 3-story brick buildings of the same size as the prefabricated houses, mentioned above, and also covered with eternit. About 40 houses were ready in 1953. This city section was constantly expanded in northern direction. The stadium (Pt24) was to be surrounded with buildings in near future. Construction was done by forced laboreres and free workers. These free workers were exiled people, most of whom had been released from camps. They lived in the barracks of the old city and in the new constr. houses. Their place of work were the coal mines, the power plant and repair shops on mining equipment.

10. RR-SIDING, leading to coal mines # 3 and 4.

11. FORCED LABOR CAMP "OLP 3" (abbr. for "Otdelnyy Lagpunkt"). S was inmate of this camp from Sep 45 to Mar 47. The camp consisted of 30 wooden barracks. It housed 2,500 men and 500 women. Their main place of work were the coal mines # 3 and 4. S worked in a small saw mill, producing daily a 60-ton car load of boards and edge timber for constr. purposes. Timber was unloaded at a rate of about 6 cars a day. It was known to come from PECHORA (6525 N/5702 E) by rail, after having been floated down the PECHORA-River.

12. COAL MINE #3. 1 hoisting tower. Unidentified output. S never worked in this mine, himself.

13. COAL MINE #4. 1 hoisting tower. No details. Fellow prisoners told S that 1950 a new forced labor camp had been erected here, the inmates of which worked only in this mine.

14. REFRIGERATOR BUILDING, under constr. 5-story, about 80m long. Brick. Constr. of roof was just begun in 1953. Date of completion generally known as late 1953. Constr. of foundations was begun in 1950. This refrigerator was to be the central storage for food products in future.

15. RR-TRACK. SRR. Led to the coal mines # 6 and 7, and most probably to other mines further off. S had not been in this region.

16. FORCED LABOR CAMP "OLP # 5". About 5,000 inmates in 1948, all of whom were criminals, referred to as "Katarzhane", not to be mistaken for "Blatnoys". The regime in this camp was very strict. Prisoners were locked up in their barracks after work.

17. CARPENTER'S SHOP. Single-story wooden barracks, covered with "finskie struzhki". S's place of work in 1948-49. Produced furniture for free workers and thousands of Russian calculating devices (Shocheta). 2 shifts, the first consisting of 40, and the second of 20 forced laborers, partly inmates of camp # 5 (Pt.16) and "Sangorodok" (Pt. 18).

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18. SANGORODOK # 14. Convalescent and invalid camp. Consisted of 18 barracks in 49. About 1,200 inmates, mostly old people and such who had suffered severe injuries in the course of accidents. Not being able to work, they were considered as a burden for labor camps. Living conditions were extremely poor. One or two convicts died each day.

19. COAL MINE # 5. No details.

20. "OLF" # 6". At least 6,000 forced laborers, all men, Their place of work was the coal mine # 6 (Pt.22).

21. PRISONER'S PASSAGE. An about 2m high and 2m wide passage with wooden walls and a barbed wire roof. Through this passage the prisoners were conducted on their daily trips between camp and place of work.

22. COAL MINE # 6. S was never there himself and could offer no details. In 1948-49, 12,000 tons of coal spontaneously caught fire. The burning coal was loaded in great haste on RR-cars and heavily quenched with water. There was a great lack of transportation (RR-cars) at that time.

23. MVD ADMINISTRATION. Single story, about 15x8m. Wooden walls and roof. Housed the personal files of all forced laborers in this region. Guarded by MVD sentries.

24. STADIUM. S was there upon arrival. Football games between MVD soldiers on Sundays. Bands and crowds of people on Sundays.

25. HIGH TENSION POWER LINES. Wooden masts, exactly 10m high (above ground level) and 2m in the ground. S had helped to erect one such mast. He was told by an electrician that the power of these power lines was 7,000 Volts. The three main lines indicated on the sketch, had about 50 sub-lines running all over the city area. All lines were overhead.

26. REPAIR SHOP of the power plant. Single-story, about 30x14m. Brick. Gable tarpaper. S was told by an electrician that this shop made repairs on the equipment of the power plant. Its main activity, however, was the winding of electromotors originating from the city area and coal mines. This work was done in 3 shifts.

27. THERMAL POWER PLANT. 4-story, about 60x20x16m. Brick. Flat concrete roof. Both lower stories and the upper story had small windows, where the windows of the third story were large. S had seen this building only from the outside. In 1950 the walls were coated yellow. This building consisted of two rather equal parts, each about 30m long. The older part existed on S's arrival. The new adjacent part was constructed in 1950-52. Each part of this building had 3 stacks on the roof. S was told by an electrician that the power plant had six turbines, but he had no date. A Volga-German stoker declared that the plant consumed 80 tons of coal in 24 hrs. This coal was of the poorest quality. S had seen no cooling towers. The plant was located on the steep bank of the river, and was a marked point in the area. The wind blew usually from the north. By west wind, however, the entire city and all neighboring coal mines.

28. FERRY. Transportation of people across the river was done by motor boats. The construction of a weekend recreation place for the populace was planned on the western bank close by, but this project was constantly put off for lack of constr. material.

29. BUILDING under constr. Referred to as "Gereu" (GRU). 3-story, about 60x12m. Brick. Constructed since 1951. The roof was till under constr. in 1953. Interior was not installed. S did not know the meaning of the name "GRU", nor the nature of this organization.

30. GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE "NIMS". 2-story, about 30x10m. Brick.

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Gabled, sheet iron painted red. Members of this institute continuously explored the region in search of adequate places for the installation of new coal mines. S knew no names and could offer no details. Neither did he know the meaning of the abbreviation "NIMS".

31. COAL MINE # 40. Newest and most modern mine in the region. Constr. begun 1950. It was not completed in 1953. 2 Hoisting towers. The buildings of this mine were made of brick. Among them was a large repair shop on mining equipment. First production was begun in Mar 53. Fellow convicts told S that the coal layers were located at an average depth of 80m. They were 3-4m thick. This mine was to produce 3,000,000 tons a year.

32. PASSAGE between camp and mine. Same type as the passage (Pt.21).

33. "LOP # 40". This forced labor camp was erected in 1953. It had 7,000 inmates. There were rumors that it was to house 12,000 inmates in future.

34. REPAIR SHOP "REMZAVOD". Main building: 2-story, about 30x10m. Old, coated wooden walls. Wooden roof covered with "finskie struzhki". S had repeatedly entered a single-story machine shop, close by in order to warm up. He identified 4 lathes, 2 one-spindled boring machines, 1 milling machine and 1 grinding machine. Inside this building ran a travelling crane of an unidentified cap. Another building, located near the main shop, housed a foundry. It was single story, about 20x10m. Wooden walls. Iron truss monitor. This foundry was equipped with 1 smelter. Here was also a pattern carpenter's shop. S had never worked here. He could offer no details. In 1953 the constr. of new work shop was begun. Its foundations were about 30x10m. S did not know the nature of this work shop. This plant was operated in 3 shifts by 80-90 workers per shift. It made repairs on mining machinery, of the coal mine # 8. It also made repairs on mining equipment of the min # 9, as long as the rapir shop of this mine was still under constr.

35. ELECTRIC SUBSTATION. Single story, about 15x8m. Brick walls. Flat concrete roof. Constr. in 1949-50. S helped to install 4 transformer inside. He estimated them at 0,8x0,6x1,0m each. This sub station was fed by the power plant (Pt.26). It supplied the mines # 8 and # 40.

36. SETTLEMENT. For free workers of the neighboring coal mines. Consisted of single story block houses, about 12x10m. Roofs covered with "finskie struzhki". The northern part of this settlement was old. The southern part was constructed in 1950-53. This newly constr. part consisted of 14 houses, 6 of which were ready when S left. In future, this settlement was to be expanded in southern direction upto the old transit prison (Pt.48).

37. KITCHEN AND MESSHALL. Old, wooden structure, single-story, about 20x15m. Roof covered with slats. Served for free workers of the settlement.

38. CLUB. Single story, T-shaped, about 30x20x5m. Wood. Gabled eternit. This new building was constructed in the place of the old club in 1951.

39. EXPLOSIVES DUMP. Surrounded by barbed wire. Heavily guarded. Housed large quantities of crated dynamite, stored in the open. These explosives were used in coal mines.

40. BATH HOUSE. Single-story, about 18x10m. Brick. Gabled eternit. S worked on its constr. in 1949.

41. TRANSFORMER HOUSE. About 3x3x6m. Brick. Pinshaped roof, tarpaper. Constr. late 51. This transformer house was connected to the high tension power line running in western direction. This line lead to the coal mine # 29, the waste pile of which was vaguely seen at a distance of about 4 km.

42. COAL MINE # 8. 2 hoisting towers. 0,7 - 3m thick coal layers at a depth of 80m. This mine was old and obsolete. In 1953 the 20 years existence of this

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mine was celebrated. The mine was separated into 12 sections. The output of the best sections amounted to 75 ton per shift, each.

43. "LOP# 9". It consisted of 60 wooden barracks, each 24x8m. The 4,500 male inmates worked in the coal mine # 8, on house constr. and the constr. of the RR-line leading to Mine # 40 (Pt.31).

44. SWITCH TRACKS. These 6 tracks were constr. in the last period of S's stay. They were intended for coal cars coming from the mine # 40.

45. MVD DOG KENNEL. Old wooden structure about 10x5m. Full of dogs for guarding camps. Small guard house beside.

46. TWO WAREHOUSES. Each single story, about 30x12m. Board-lined walls filled out with slag. Wooden roof not covered with tarpaper. One warehouse was constr. in 1952, the other in 1953. Both housed food products for the camps # 9 and 40, as well as for free worker' stores.

47. DAM across the VORKUTA-River. Made of wood. Water fall about 2m high. Close to this dam was the pump station of the power plant. S knew nothing of the pumps.

48. OLD TRANSIT PRISON "Staraya Peresylka". Consisted of 23 old wooden barracks. In Jun 53, 700 German ex-PWs were gathered here for repatriation. Polish and Hungarian PWs were to follow. This peresylka was not used for Russian prisoners.

49. SETTLEMENT. Old. About 15 wooden barracks, each appr. 18x8m. Walls made of boards. Roofs covered with finskie struzhki. Occupied by free workers.

50. SETTLEMENT. Old. Seven barracks of the same type as just described under Pt. 49, and 3-4 larger ones. Free workers. No constr. activity.

51. VEHICULAR BRIDGE. Primitive wooden structure on wooden piers. 1 lane, about 3m wide. No sidewalks. Every year, during the high water period, this bridge had to be dismantled in order to prevent its being carried away. It was restored again when the water level fell. During the high water period in spring, there were no means by which vehicles could cross the river. People used the RR-bridge (Pt. 52). The constr. of a massive bridge was planned, but was not begun when S left.

52. RR-BRIDGE. SRR. About 100m long. Concrete abutments. 3 Concrete piers. 4 steel arches. About 4m over water level. This bridge existed when S arrived.

53. FORCED LABOR CAMP of mine # 9. About 10 wooden barracks. 800-900 inmates.

54. COAL MINE # 9. Known to be small. 1 hoisting tower. No details.

55. VORKUTA-River. Navigable in its part north of the dam (Pt.47). S saw only small screw driven steamers for passenger transportation. He did not know their destination. Due to the dam, the water level in this northern part remained constant. South of the dam, except the high water periods, the river was quite shallow. Near the bridge was a ford, about 50cm deep.

56. COAL MINES # 10 and 11. Both small. No details.

57. "OLP # 10/11". Much better equipped than any other camp. 3,000 male inmates worked partly in the mines # 10 and 11, as well as on constr. in the city area.

58. COAL MINE. So-called "Kapitalny Shacht". Huge waste pile, at least 60m high. Marked point in the area. This pile contained large quantities of coal particles, which spontaneously combusted. Thus it was free of snow throughout the year. S stated that this was the case with many other waste piles. This mine was known to be 20 years old. It was obsolete but large.

59. NEW TRANSIT PRISON "Novaya Peresylka". Approx. location. S remembered this location with an effort. He had never been inside.

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III. GENERAL INFORMATION

The city was surrounded by the northern "Tundra" and swamps. The only vegetation were small bushes. No kind of agriculture. Winter began late in Oct, and lasted until late Apr., but it happened frequently that snow fell in Jun. The summer lasted from the middle of Jun until Sep. The sun never shined during these months. From Dec to Mar heavy snow storms were frequent. They lasted 2-4 days. As a rule however, the sky was clear in summer and in winter. The VORKUTA-River had steep banks. The eastern bank rose at an incline of about 45 degrees for about 100m, then followed a slight slope upto the buildings of the New City (Pt.9) where the country became flat. This slope was not built up. The western bank rose at an incline of about 35 degrees, and the buildings on this western side of the river were still located on a slope. With the beginning of the winter tribes of eskimos approached the city. They camped in groups of 4-5 families, sold reindeer meat at the market and were quite indifferent to things going on around them. Soviet authorities neither payed any attention to them. In spring the eskimos went north again. The city and the entire district was fully controlled by the MVD. Chief of the district was a general the name of whom S did not know. Twice a year he used to inspect forced labor camps. Male and female prisoners were separated in different camps beginning with 47. There were 2 female camps in this area. One was located near a brickyard somewhere in the whereabouts of the coal mine # 29, northwest of the city, and the other was somewhat south of the "Sangorodok # 14" (Pt. 18). New prisoners were brought to this area twice a year, in spring and autumn, 3-4,000 in each of these periods. This was also the case in 1953 and 1954. Leaving this area on the way home, S met a transport with forced laborers going to VORKUTA. In forced labor camps the number of convicts in this region was estimated at 70,000. Their main place of work were the coal mines of which there were 40 in this region. Free workers were all exiled people, the large majority had been released from camps but were not permitted to return home. Only those who were amnestied after Stalin's death were sent to their former homes. However, only few were amnestied, as the sentences were as a rule higher than 5 years. Thus, in camp # 9 there were only 16 amnestied people among 4,500. The transport of amnestied people amounted to 400 in all, from all camps in this region. It was to leave VORKUTA on 1 May 53. The ex-convicts managed to get drunk and began a fight. MVD soldiers were forced to restore order by using their tommy guns. There were 7 dead and many wounded. 40-50 ex-convicts were arrested again and sent back to camps. Besides the Russians there were many Estonians, Latvians, Litianians, Poles, Hungarians, Japanese, Ukrainians and even Chinese in camps. S could not offer any information of interest in regard to these people. Beginning with 47, convicts were sorted in separate camps according to the paragraphs of their charge. This action was completed with 1950. Criminals, socalled "Katarzhane" were gathered in separate camps. One of them was camp # 5, S did not know the others. Forced laborers earned money beginning in Jan 52. S earned an average of 130.- Rubles a month, but coal mine workers earned upto 3-400.- Rubles. However, only 100.- Rubles were payed in cash, the rest being put on account. With the earning of money life in camps became much better. There was less stealing and less envy among the prisoners. After 1950, only few "Blatnoys" remained in camps. Those who remained had far less power than formerly. The mass of blatnoys was sorted out of camps. S did not know where they were taken to. Exiles lived better than the forced laborers. Some had friends in camps whom they would have liked to help, but were not allowed to do so, nor even to contact prisoners. Writing and visits of relations were strictly forbidden. Forced laborers rejoiced at the news of Stalin's death.

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Spirits rose after the announcement of the amnesty. All convicts hoped for another amnesty to follow which was to reduce half of their sentence. MVD Officers became more polite. The regimental officer of the camp # 9, KOLOSSNIKOV, asked the convicts on an assembly whether they had noticed the change in treatment. He stated that at the time being the prisoners were "isolated" but all would become free Soviet citizens in time. MVD convoys stopped beating prisoners, this treatment being now forbidden. Food rations did not change. Japanese were repatriated in Jun 53. Only *1* remained, S did not know why. German ex-PWs were all repatriated from SOURCE's camp. About 200 SZG-Germans, all sentenced to 25 years remained in camp.

Marcell B. Fountain
Capt. USAF
for SHIRLEY A. KOLPIN
Lt. Col USAF
Commander
7052 AISS

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By WV NARA Date 9/4/01

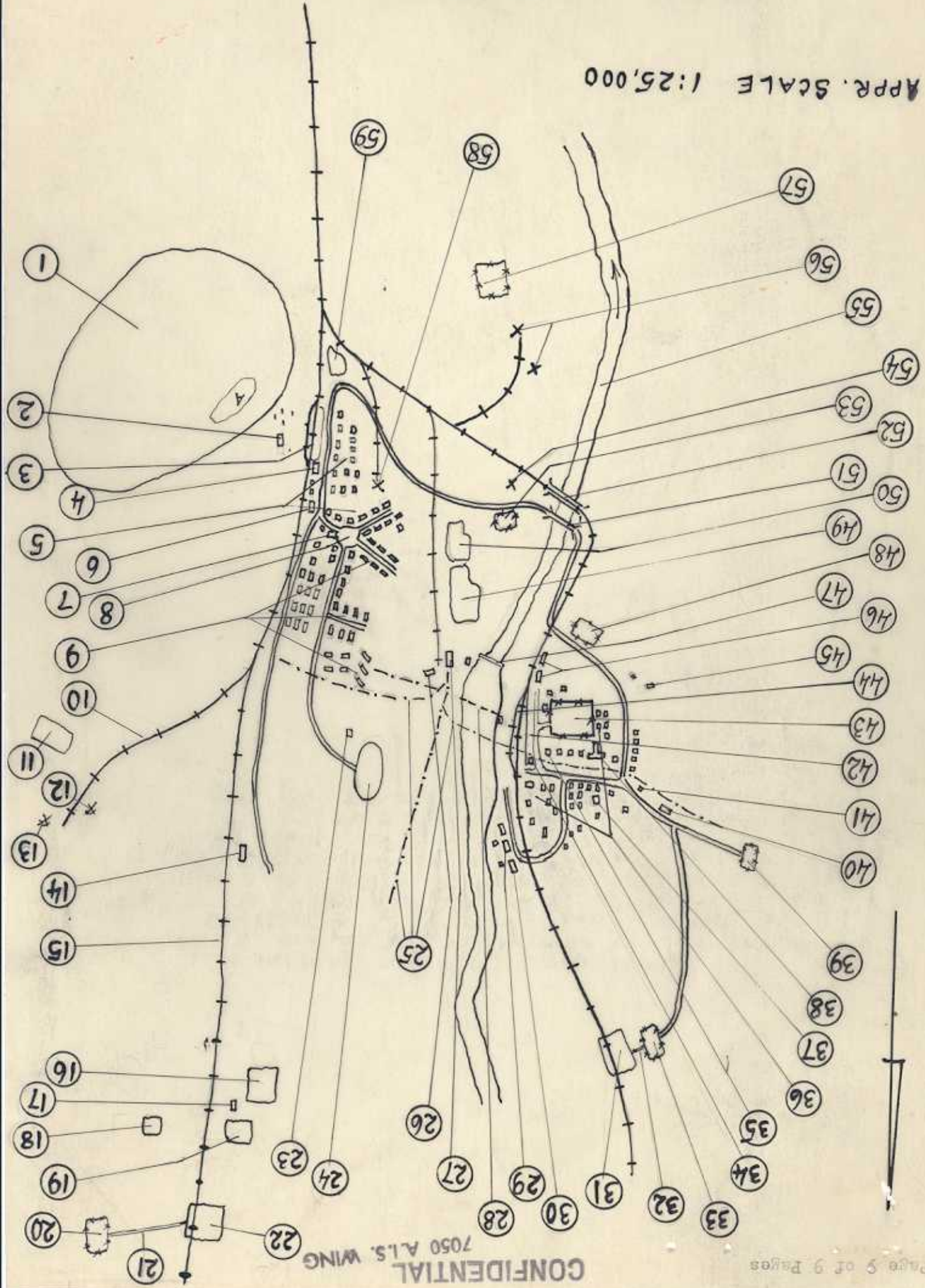
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Incl. # 1

Memory Sketch of the Area of
YORKVIA (67 31 N, 63 59 E)

APPR. SCALE 1:25,000



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